

## Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 EB-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-03 AGR-20

OPIC-12 DRC-01 /164 W

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R 262005Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1319

INFO USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 3524

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, EAID, DR

SUBJECT: GULF AND WESTERN TURNS OVER LAND TO PRIVATE OWNERSHIP

1. GULF AND WESTERN AMERICAS HAS ANNOUNCED A PROPOSAL IT HAS MADE TO THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT BY WHICH THE COMPANY WOULD EXPAND CONSIDERABLY ITS TWO-YEAR OLD PROGRAM OF SELLING SUGAR LAND TO LOCAL SUGAR CULTIVATORS (COLONOS). THE TRANSFER WOULD TAKE PLACE IN THREE STAGES, EACH TOTALLING 10,000 ACRES OF LAND ALREADY PLANTED WITH CANE. IN THE PREVIOUS TWO YEARS OF THE PROGRAM 3,700 ACRES OF LAND WERE TRANSFERRED. ACCORDING TO THE GULF AND WESTERN ANNOUNCEMENT, PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO HEADS OF AMILIES WITHOUT LAND; PRICES WILL BE LOW AND PAYMENT WILL BE OVER 10 YEARS WITH A 5 PERCENT INTEREST RATE. GULF AND WESTERN WILL OFFER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE NEW LANDOWNERS. THE COMPANY ALSO POINTED OUT THAT ONE EFFECT OF THE SALE WOULD BE TO REDUCE GULF AND WESTERN'S CAPITAL BASE IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC THUS LOWERING THE AMOUNT OF PROFITS IT COULD LEGALLY REPATRIATE TO THE US.

2. ON AUGUST 24 THE PRESITIGIOUS DAILY LISTIN DIARIO REPORTED THE GULF AND WESTERN PROPOSAL AS THE LEADING  
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NEWS ITEM. THE SAME DAY, THE PAPER NOTED IN AN EDITORIAL

THAT GULF AND WESTERN "IN RECENT YEARS HAS  
DEMONSTRATED AN INCREASING SENSE OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY"  
AND CALLED THE NEW PROGRAM " A GREAT EXAMPLE".

3. COMMENT: THIS EXPANDED PROGRAM SHOULD IMPROVE SOME-  
WHAT THE IMAGE OF GULF AND WESTERN, WHICH HAS BEEN  
REGULARLY CRITICIZED FOR ITS LARGE HOLDINGS OF LAND IN  
THE EASTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY. THE PLAN ALSO COMPLEMENTS  
PRESIDENT BALAGUER'S LAND REFORM PROGRAM..  
HURWITCH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SUGAR, BUSINESS FIRMS, PROPOSALS (BID), AGRICULTURAL LAND, REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION, PRIVATE INVESTMENTS, LAND REFORMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 AUG 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** martinjw  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 JUN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17 JUN 2002 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <24 JAN 2003 by martinjw>  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GULF AND WESTERN TURNS OVER LAND TO PRIVATE OWNERSHIP  
**TAGS:** EINV, EAID, DR, GULF & WESTERN AMERICAS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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